CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A method for generating relative addressed Web pages from an electronic media database structure, said method comprising:

connecting to a database structure having data defining an electronic media description;

generating a top level menu of a structure from said electronic media description;

selecting a menu structure to parse;

parsing said selected menu structure; and

generating tagged data relative Web pages that preserve said hierarchy of said original electronic media description in said DBMS.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said hierarchy is preserved by generating links between and among said tagged data relative Web pages which correspond to said original hierarchy of said original electronic media description.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising selecting interoperability options.

4. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising converting graphics files to a format selected in the step of selecting interoperability options, wherein a user may choose to convert only graphics files actually referenced in said selected menu structure.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying status of generating tagged data relative web pages in real time.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising exporting said relative Web pages to be used in a standalone environment.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the step of exporting is performed by sending e-mail web page updates to a user, said user overwriting existing web pages with said web page updates.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying said tagged data relative Web pages using a Web browser.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said tagged data relative Web pages are coded in one of the languages selected from the group consisting of Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), eXtensible Markup Language (XML) and HyperText Markup Language (HTML).

10. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of parsing said selected menu structure further comprises identifying whether a data object is of type menu, narrative, graphic, table, or procedure.

11. A method as recited in claim 10 wherein said data object is of type menu, further comprising:

selecting menu information from said DBMS;

creating a start menu; and

for each child data class or node, recursively performing said parsing and said generating steps.

12. A method as recited in claim 10 wherein said data object is of type narrative, graphic or table, further comprising:

selecting object information from said DBMS; and

saving links found within said information for later processing.

13. A method as recited in claim 10 wherein said data object is of type procedure, further comprising:

selecting procedure information from said DBMS;

saving links found within said procedure information for later processing;

if there is an exited-to procedure then

selecting procedure information for an exited-to procedure from said DBMS; and

recursively performing said parsing and said generating steps for said exited-to procedure; and

if there is a decision in said procedure comprising a YES portion and a NO portion then

selecting the YES portion of said procedure and recursively performing said parsing and said generating steps on the YES portion; and

selecting the NO portion of said procedure and recursively performing said parsing and said generating steps on the NO portion.

14. An apparatus for parsing a database structure to produce tagged data that preserves the content, links, and structure of the original electronic media description that can be viewed as a local relative addressed Web of pages, comprising:

a DBMS with data defining an electronic media description;

a user interface allowing a user to interactively select options

controlling an extraction process and view status; and

an extractor for extracting data from said DBMS and generating tagged data relative Web pages that can be exported and viewed by a standalone computing device using a Web browser.

15. An apparatus for parsing a database structure to produce tagged data as recited in claim 14, wherein said extractor utilizes recursion.

16. A method for extracting data from a selected menu structure of an electronic media database structure for generating relative addressed Web pages, said method comprising:

(a) identifying whether a data object is of type menu, narrative, graphic, table, or procedure, and if said data object is a menu type, creating a starting menu from said selected menu structure;

(b) selecting data object information from said DBMS;

(c) creating an HTML file representing said data object;

(d) saving links found within said information for later processing;

(e) if said data object is a procedure type, then if there is an exited-to procedure then

(1) selecting procedure information for an exited-to procedure from said DBMS;

(2) creating an HTML file representing said exited-to procedure;

(3) recursively performing steps (a) to (f) for said exited-to procedure; and

(f) if said data object is a procedure type, then if there is a decision in said procedure comprising a YES portion and a NO portion then

(1) selecting the YES portion of said procedure and recursively performing steps (a) to (f) on the YES portion; and

(2) selecting the NO portion of said procedure and recursively performing steps (a) to (f) on the NO portion;

(g) processing said saved links; and

(h) repeating steps (a) to (g) for each data object in said selected menu structure.

17. A computer readable medium containing code for extracting data from a selected menu structure of an electronic media database structure for generating relative addressed Web pages, the code implementing steps of:

(a) identifying whether a data object is of type menu, narrative, graphic, table, or procedure, and if said data object is a menu type, creating a starting menu from said selected menu structure;

(b) selecting data object information from said DBMS;

(c) creating an HTML file representing said data object;

(d) saving links found within said information for later processing;

(e) if said data object is a procedure type, then if there is an exited-to procedure then

(1) selecting procedure information for an exited-to procedure from said DBMS;

(2) creating an HTML file representing said exited-to procedure;

(3) recursively performing steps (a) to (f) for said exited-to procedure; and

(f) if said data object is a procedure type, then if there is a decision in said procedure comprising a YES portion and a NO portion then

(1) selecting the YES portion of said procedure and recursively performing steps (a) to (f) on the YES portion; and

(2) selecting the NO portion of said procedure and recursively performing steps (a) to (f) on the NO portion;

(g) processing said saved links; and

(h) repeating steps (a) to (g) for each data object in said selected menu structure.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein the computer readable medium is a data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein the computer readable medium is a data signal embodied in a digital data stream.

20. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising computer code for extracting data from a selected menu structure of an electronic media database structure for generating relative addressed Web pages, comprising:

a first code section for identifying whether a data object is of type menu, narrative, graphic, table, or procedure, and if said data object is a menu type, creating a starting menu from said selected menu structure;

a second code section for selecting data object information from said DBMS;

a third code section for creating an HTML file representing said data object;

a fourth code section for saving links found within said information for later processing;

a fifth code section for recursively processing links and decision branches in procedure type information; and

a sixth code section for processing said saved links.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 20 wherein the computer readable medium is a data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 20 wherein the computer readable medium is a data signal embodied in a digital data stream.

23. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising a plurality of web pages wherein a hierarchy of an electronic media database structure is preserved in said plurality of web pages by generating links between and among said tagged data relative Web pages which correspond to said original hierarchy of said original electronic media description contained in an electronic media database structure, said web pages generated by a method comprising:

generating a top level menu of a structure from said electronic media description;

selecting a menu structure to parse;

parsing said selected menu structure; and

generating tagged data relative Web pages and preserving said hierarchy of said original electronic media description in said DBMS,

wherein said web pages are generated on a server connected to said original electronic media database structure and said computer data signal is transmitted to a user not directly connected to said server.

24. A computer data signal embodied in a digital data stream comprising a plurality of web pages wherein a hierarchy of an electronic media database structure is preserved in said plurality of web pages by generating links between and among said tagged data relative Web pages which correspond to said original hierarchy of said original electronic media description contained in an electronic media database structure, said web pages generated by a method comprising:

generating a top level menu of a structure from said electronic media description;

selecting a menu structure to parse;

parsing said selected menu structure; and

generating tagged data relative Web pages and preserving said hierarchy of said original electronic media description in said DBMS,

wherein said web pages are generated on a server connected to said original electronic media database structure and said computer data signal is transmitted to a user not directly connected to said server.